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The fact that *F. suspensa* makes abortive capsules freely, and *F. viridissima* rarely, though it has the best developed pistil, indicates that fertility is dependent on the potency of the pollen; and this is confirmed by the production of capsules on *F. viridissima* when the pollen of *F. suspensa* was applied:

The fact that the speaker has had both forms growing on his grounds for many years, without any seed-vessel appearing on *F. viridissima*, except in the case cited, shows that it is not likely to be cross-fertilized through insect agency.

In the fully fertile case of *F. suspensa*, the plants of *F. viridissima* were fully four hundred feet away; and the suggestion of inter-crossing between these forms, considered in connection with the points previously made, seems to place hybridization out of the question.

We may conclude, therefore, that these two supposed species are but sexually dimorphic forms of one; and we have also the curious fact that, in this case, notwithstanding the presumable influence of the law of heredity, the strongly masculine tendency of the parent, as indicated by the highly developed stamens, the potency of its pollen on the *F. viridissima*, the power to almost perfect seeds in partially developed seed-vessels generally, and the actual perfection in one year, notwithstanding the imperfectly developed pistil, should have had to give way to the female tendency in the offspring to such a great degree as to leave only four out of thirty-four to represent the parent.

Influence of Circumstances on Heredity.—MR. THOMAS MEEHAN referred to the fact that seed of the purple-leaved variety of *Berberis vulgaris*, collected from plants growing near Philadelphia, reproduced the purple-leaved peculiarity to an extent which it could not do more perfectly if the variety were a true species. In a bed of seedlings, containing on an estimate one thousand plants, there were only two reversions to the original green-leaved condition. Two years ago, he had been given, by Prof. C. S. Sargent, some seeds of ligneous plants, sent to him from some European Botanical Garden, and of thirty seedlings planted only two are dark purple as in the parent.

MAY 22.

Rev. Dr. H. C. McCook, Vice-President, in the chair.

Forty persons present.

A paper entitled "A Revision of the Species of Gerres found in American Waters," by B. W. Evermann and Seth E. Meek, was presented for publication.